



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Borough of Fowey,

1923.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area—(Acres) 2032.341.

Population (1923)—1982.

Number of inhabited houses (1921)—475.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)—523.

Rateable Value—£11,941. Sum represented by a penny rate—£49 15s.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births—Male, 11; Female, 12; Total, 23. All legitimate.

Birth-Rate—11.6 per thousand.

Deaths—Male, 14; Female, 16; Total 30. Death-Rate—15.13 per thousand.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—None.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—None.

Deaths from Measles—None. Deaths from Whooping Cough—None.

Deaths from Diarrhoea—None.

There is a marked fall in the Birth-Rate this year.

Early in the year there was an epidemic of Measles which attacked an unusual number of adults.

Three deaths from Tuberculosis, nine from Cancer.

As it has been commented on that several of these last occurred in one particular district, this is perhaps a suitable place to remark that no connection has been traced between this disease and locality, and certainly no inference can be drawn from a small group of cases the occurrence of which is due to the usual incidence of the disease in later middle age.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Two cases of Tuberculosis were notified, now undergoing Sanatorium treatment.

Two doubtful cases submitted to the County Tuberculosis Officer and by him pronounced to be Non-Tubercular. Three deaths from Tuberculosis (one laryngeal) two of which had received Sanatorium treatment, the third a child aged two.

There was total absence of all other notifiable disease. As regards Measles which is not now notifiable, there is no doubt that in a small area like this the disease is always brought from outside, generally at the end of a holiday and spreads from the school, the school-attending children suffering first and the infants afterwards. Some households where there are only children under school age escaping.

No cases of Ophthalmic Nematorum were notified.

There has been an increase in a mild type of Bronchitis amongst workers in the holds of ships carrying China Clay due to some change in the drying process at the Works. Hitherto China Clay dust has been harmless.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

There is a District Nurse under the control of a Committee supported mostly by Endowment, who also is a Certified Midwife and attends the larger number of cases, the rest employing Nurses from Nursing Homes, etc. The Nurse also acts as Health Visitor. The work is quite satisfactory. There is a Cottage Hospital supported by Voluntary Contributions, and an Infectious Diseases Hospital under the Control of the Port Sanitary Authority. An Ambulance is kept at the Station for Jetty Accidents, and there is a staff of trained Railway Men.

In other respects the Borough benefits by general County arrangements for Sanatorium and other treatment for Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease, etc.

LABORATORY WORK.

The Medical Officer is prepared to report if required, but as so much work with vaccines, etc. is now done for modern treatment in connection with the larger Laboratories, it is found convenient to employ them for all general bacteriological examinations.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE—

Public Health Act, 1875. Sections 39, 42, 44, 45, 47, 49, 50, 157, 158.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. Part III.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

Part III. Sections 20-26, 28-33.

Part III. Sections 34-47, 49.

Part IV. Sections 52-60, 62-64 66-67.

Part V. Sections 69-75.

Part VIII. Sections 87-90.

Part X. Section 25.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Water Closets	654
Water-Closets connected to Cess-pits			10
Earth Closets	39
Septic Tank	1

No change since last year except an additional new house.

WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

There is one Sanitary Inspector who is an wholetime officer but combines also the office of Borough Surveyor.

Inspection of places where food is prepared:—

There is one slaughter house which is regularly inspected. The place is kept clean and disinfection satisfactory.

All the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops were visited and inspected before being licensed under the New Milk Regulations. Many minor defects were reported and attended to with one exception which was not given a license for sale of milk.

There is no smoke nuisance.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

- (a) Total 1.
- (b) With state assistance under Housing Acts 1919 or 1923—none.
- 1 Unfit dwelling house.

Total number inspected for housing defects—41.

Number found unfit for human habitation—none.

Number not in all respects reasonably fit—none.

The real heading which a number of houses come under is that being old houses they do not quite come up to modern standards, such as absence of bath rooms and (owing to the construction of the older portions of the town) insufficient light in the back premises, that is, they were originally built too close to the cliff.

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notice—none.

Action under Statutory Powers.

- (a) Proceedings under section 28 Housing Act 1919—none.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—none.
- (c) Proceedings under sections 17, 18 Housing Act 1909—none.

So far as regards ordinary Sanitation all houses inspected were satisfactory. A few minor defects were remedied. Many of the working classes are now owners, and keep their houses in as satisfactory condition as possible in view of original site defects which date from last century.

It was hoped to be able to report this year at least a start with building on the new area selected. This hope has been disappointed owing to circumstances, chiefly in connection with the water supply, entirely outside the control of the Local Authority. In the new area the town-water supply is essential. This is not yet ready. Very little can be done to improve housing conditions until there are more houses. On the whole, while there is much inconveniences, there is surprising little actual overcrowding, and no house in use definitely unfit. The greatest inconvenience is felt by jetty workers who as things are have to live outside the area and travel a distance to their work.

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